D——T——H

ALLIANCE,

A

FARCE,

IN

TWO ACTS.

Anon.

" Honour's a ſacred Tye, the Law of Kings,
" The noble Mind's diſtinguiſhing Perfection,
" That aids and ſtrengthens Virtue where it meets her,
" And imitates her Actions where ſhe is not,
" It ought not to be ſported with——

CATO.

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[1759.]

ALEXANDER
1883
GARDINER

Dramatis Perſonæ.

Mr. VANSLAKEN, a *D—h* Merchant and Owner.

Mr. VANYOUDES, a *D—h* Merchant and Owner.

Mr. VANBRUCA, Owner and Captain.

Monſ. LE PARDU, a *F—h* Merchant.

Monſ. LE TRETA, a *F—h* Merchant.

NEBO, Servant to Mr. VANSLAKEN.

BRITISH
13 OC 85
MUSEUM

THE D——T——H ALLIANCE, &c.

ACT I.

SCENE I. *A Room in Mr. Vanſlaken's Houſe, at A——m.*

Mr. Vanſlaken diſcover'd in an eaſy Chair by a Table, looking over many Bills of Lading, Conſignments, &c.

Mr. VANSLAKEN. *(Reads)*

THE Bill of Lading of the good Ship *A——*, Capt. *B——*; Ditto of the *M——a T——*, Capt. *T——*; Ditto of the *N——*, Capt. *B——*; Ditto of the *P——*, Capt. *W——*; Ditto of the *L——*, Capt. *W——*;

W——; Ditto of the *D*——, Capt. *R*——; Ditto of the *C*——, Capt. *T*——; *&c. &c.* (*puts them aſide.*

Happy was it for us, when the S——s of *H*——*d* enter'd into an Alliance with the *E*——*ſh*, for under their Wing are we ſhelter'd from the Inſults of other Powers, and enabled to extend our Commerce to all parts of the known World.

Enter NEBO.

Sir, Two Gentlemen at the Door deſire to know how you do to-day?

Mr. VANSLAKEN.

Aſk their Names?

NEBO.

Yes, Sir. (*Exit.*

NEBO *Re-enters.*

Mr. VANSLAKEN.

Who are they?

NEBO.

Mr. *Vanyoudes* and Capt. *Vanbruca*, Sir.

Mr. VANSLAKEN.

Give them Admittance.

NEBO.

Yes, Sir. (*Exit.*

Enter

Enter Mr. *Vanyoudes* and Capt. *Vanbruca*.

Mr. VANSLAKEN.

Your very humble Servant Mr. *Vanyoudes*, I hope you are well?

Mr. VANYOUDES.

Very well, Sir, at your Service, I hope your Honour's well.

Mr. VANSLAKEN.

How do you do Capt. *Vanbruca*, I am very glad to ſee you.

Capt. VANBRUCA.

At your ſervice Sir, I am very well in Health, I hope I have the Pleaſure to ſee you well.

Mr. VANSLAKEN.

Well, Gentlemen, what's your Buſineſs with me, have you heard any News?

Mr. VANYOUDES.

Yes, Sir, I'll tell you, Trade ſeems a little ſtagnated in *E——d*, and much more ſo in *F——e*, which will naturally cauſe a Stagnation throughout all *Europe*, and as I am a little concern'd with you in Merchandize and Ships, came to aſk your advice in an Affair of ſome moment, as things at preſent are.

Mr.

Mr. VANSLAKEN.

Pray Sir, let me hear what it is, and if it tends to any good or benefit, you may depend on my Advice in every particular.

Mr. VANYOUDES.

The Affair is Intereſting, Urgent, Good and Beneficial, Capt. *Vanbruca* has been lately in *F——e*, and tells me the Merchants there are in great want of Ships to carry on their Trade, (occaſion'd by the Loſs they have ſuſtain'd by the *E——* Privateers,) that they would give any Money for them, and if we could with ſafety employ our Ships in their Service, in ſuch a Manner as not to be obſerv'd by the *E——ſh*, it would turn to a good Account.

Mr. VANSLAKEN.

I think it may be done without much hazard, what think you Captain.

Capt. VANBRUCA.

I think ſo really Sir, as we are in a true Alliance with the *E——*, they'll ſcarcely ſuſpect us. I think it a very advantageous Offer, and will be abſolutely ſerviceable to both Parties. I expect a Letter from one of the *F——h* Merchants this Day, which he deſired I wou'd ſhew to my

my Owners, in which he ſaid he would give a full Account of their Intention.

Mr. VANSLAKEN.

I have ſeveral Ships that I could ſerve them with, and it is but Inſuring them at *L——n*, Ship and Cargo; and then there can be no great damage done on our ſide.

Capt. VANBRUCA.

No, no, that's true Sir.

Mr. VANYOUDES.

I don't Imagine they'd ever board our Ships, to know whether their loading were *F——h* or our own Property.

Mr. VANSLAKEN.

And if they did, and were even to take the Ships, if they were Inſured at *L——n*; it would all fall upon the *L——n* Inſurance Brokers; that in fact it would be fighting them with their own Weapons.

Mr. VANYOUDES.

'Twou'd ſo Sir, and in my Opinion, that method of fighting, ſeldom, or never fails to conquer.

(*Exeunt.*

SCENE

SCENE II. *The Exchange at A——m.*

Mr. *Vanſlaken*, Mr. *Vanyoudes*, Capt. *Vanbruca*, *meet together.*

Mr. VANSLAKEN.

Well, Gentlemen, any News from *P—s.*

Mr. VANYOUDES.

Yes, Sir, brave News, brave News, the *F——h* Merchants will give us double freightage for our Ships and will be glad of fifty Sail of them directly, they have now Goods in Warehouſes on the Quays ready to be immediately Ship'd off, and deſire our Ships may be diſpatch'd with all poſſible haſte.

Mr. VANSLAKEN.

Then be it ſo, I'll ſend them half their Number in a few Days; come, come, this will be a very beneficial Affair for us, and a reſtorative Balſam for the *F——h*, whoſe Commerce is in a manner Dead and ruin'd by their Enemies Ships; and when any Nation's Commerce is dead, the State itſelf cannot ſurvive long after; it is the Spring of Life, the Sinews of War, the Means of Wealth, Honour and Glory.

Capt. VANBRUCA.

But by the bye, the *E——ſh* will not think it honourable of us to aſſiſt their Ene-

Enemies, whilſt we look upon them as our Defenders and Protectors.

Mr. VANSLAKEN.

You know Capt. ſelf-preſervation is an over-ruling Paſſion, we are bound by Nature to help ourſelves before our Neighbours, therefore we are to conſider our own Benefit, and to enrich our Families, whenever we can, at all Times and in all Places. As one State or Kingdom riſes another falls; how often has one Nation built upon another's ruin.

Mr. VANYOUDES.

Yes, but Sir, that wou'd not ſuit our Conſtitution to act in that manner, for the States of *H——d* muſt always be in Alliance with one Power, or other, not being powerful enough of herſelf to withſtand the Conteſt of *E——d*, *F——e*, or *S—n*, if either of them ſhou'd upon any occaſion think it expedient to go to War with us, therefore, we, for our own Intereſt, ſhould be careful how we give Umbrage to either of theſe Powers.

Mr. VANSLAKEN.

No doubt! no doubt! but that's not to the Point, here is a thing of conſe-

of

quence offers; that is, to get Money, (the very quinteſſence of Life) in a ready, eaſy, ſure, and certain Manner; and ſhall we be ſo ſtupidly ſenſeleſs, as not to embrace the Opportunity, eſpecially at a Time when two great Nations are impoveriſhing themſelves in War.

Capt. VANBRUCA.

This War, has ruin'd moſt of the *F——h* Merchants, and hurt many of the *E——ſh* as there have been a number of Privateers on both ſides fitted out to deſtroy each others Commerce.

Mr. VANYOUDES.

Aye, true, Sir, but this project will prevent their Ruin.—But Gentlemen, don't you think if this Scheme is carried on according to the expectation of the *F——h* Merchants; that the *E——ſh* Merchants and Owners of Privateers will be ruin'd by it, for then the Privateering will be all render'd ineffectual and uſeleſs.

Mr. VANSLAKEN.

That we can't help! (We are to hear, ſee, and ſay nothing.)

Mr. VANYOUDES.

On that account I can't think it would laſt long.

Capt.

Capt. VANBRUCA.

Why not, what could they do.

Mr. VANSLAKEN.

True, what cou'd they do; the Ships are ours, and the Lading tho' *F——b* Property, consign'd to us, the Thing's secure, we have nothing to fear, nor the *F——b* any thing to wish for, but a fair Wind.

Mr. VANYOUDES.

Well Sir, let's agree to Dispatch a few Ships as fast as possible, as you seem agreeable, we may as well determine at once, and send them, and shew the *F——b* how willing and ready we are to serve them.

Mr. VANSLAKEN.

I agree with all my heart, give the necessary Orders and see that they are immediately executed.

Mr. VANYOUDES.

That I will, without delay, you may depend on my utmost Efforts in this laudable undertaking.

Capt. VANBRUCA.

And mine likewise, there shall be nothing wanting on my part to forward the design.

Mr. VANSLAKEN.

I imagine in the Circle of our Acquaintance, we can fit out near One-hundred Sail of Ships, which will set the Merchants at *P—ls* upon their legs again presently.

Mr. VANYOUDES.

—Yes Sir, that I dare venture to say we Can.

Capt. VANBRUCA.

I expect to hear from one of the *F——b* Merchants every hour.

Mr. VANSLAKEN.

—Well, Capt. you'll give me a sight of the Letter, when it comes?

Capt. VANBRUCA.

Certainly Sir, by all means, for 'tis for you and the rest of the Gentlemen they write.

Mr. VANYOUDES.

Mr. *Vanſlaken*, your moſt obedient, I muſt hence, and make all neceſſary preparations for this our preſent undertaking.

Capt. VANBRUCA.

Mr. *Vanſlaken*, I am your very humble Servant, you may depend on ſeeing me, or hearing from me in a Day or two.

Mr. VANSLAKEN.

Gentlemen, your Servant, good-day.

Exeunt.

ACT II.

SCENE I. *A Room in Mr. Vanſlaken's Houſe.*

Mr. Vanſlaken at Breakfaſt.

Enter Mr. Vanyoudes and Capt. Vanbruca.

Mr. VANYOUDES.

YOUR Servant Sir, good Morning.

Mr. VANSLAKEN.

Good Morning Gentlemen, well, have you come to welcome me with ſome good News, how thrive we in our undertaking?

Mr. VANYOUDES.

As well as the Time wou'd Permit, we are as forward in our Enterprize as can be wiſh'd.

Mr. VANSLAKEN.

Have you heard from your Correſpondents at *P——s*, Captain.

Capt.

Capt. VANBRUCA.

Yes, Sir, I have receiv'd a Letter from them, and have brought it with me, they are very ſtrenuous for our ſending them the Ships, as it tends ſo much to their Benefit, and to the inſupportable Loſs of the Engliſh.

Mr. VANSLAKEN.

Pleaſe to let me ſee it Sir.

Capt. VANBRUCA.

Here it is Sir.

(Delivers the Letter.

Mr. VANSLAKEN.

I hope you have diſpatch'd a few Ships Mr. *Vanyoudes.*

Mr. VANYOUDES.

Yes Sir, All that were ready.

Mr. VANSLAKEN.

That's Right.

(Opens the Letter and Reads.

SIR,

Pleaſe to inform the Gentlemen Owners of Ships, that you are acquainted with, that we will give them extraordinary freightage for all the ſhips they will employ for our uſe, and that for their own ſecurity they may inſure their ſhips at L——n.

This

This affair has been canvas'd ſo general-ly, that it has reach'd the ears of our peo-ple at the helm, and has gain'd their general approbation, for theſe ſeveral reaſons,

Firſt, *It will be a means of our carrying on the war till we can have an opportunity of making peace on our own terms.*

Secondly, *It will be a means of ſtarving all the E—ſh privateers off our coaſts, which they have ſo long paſt numerouſly infeſted, and conſequently muſt reduce their merchants to beggary very ſpeedily.*

Thirdly, *It will be a means of our pri-vateers putting to ſea with more ſafety in or-der to reduce their trade, which may in all probability hurry them on to patch up a peace with us on any conditions.*

I am, Sir,
With the greateſt reſpect,
Your moſt obedient,
Humble ſervant,
Le Pardu.

P. S. *If no material buſineſs hinders me, I ſhall be with you very ſoon after you have receiv'd this letter.—Commend me to your friends, and if you ſhou'd not be in the way when I arrive, pleaſe to leave a direction where I may wait on thoſe gentlemen that are concern'd in the intereſt of our trade.*

'Tis

'Tis Well, 'tis Well, this Work will go bravely on, give it but Birth, and it will thrive a-main.

Mr. VANYOUDES.

That it has already, and before the Arrival of *Monſ. Le Pardu* we ſhall haved one a deal of buſineſs.

Mr. VANSLAKEN.

The liberal Hand that helps the Needy, heaven has decreed ſhall proſper.

Capt. VANBRUCA.

Gentlemen your Servant, I hope you'll excuſe me, for I muſt get every thing ready to-night, and if the Wind permits, to-morrow I ſhall ſet ſail.

Mr. VANSLAKEN.

Captain adieu, may your Voyage be ſpeedy and proſperous.

Mr. VANYOUDES.

I wiſh you Succeſs Capt. with all my Heart.

Capt. VANBRUCA.

Gentlemen, your moſt Obedient.

(Exeunt.

SCENE

SCENE II. *A ſtreet near the Exchange.*

Mr. Vanyoudes and Monſ. Le Pardu meet.

Mr. VANYOUDES.

Sir, your moſt obedient, how do you do, I have not had the Pleaſure of ſeeing you but once before, ſince your arrival here.

Monſ. LE PARDU.

Excellent Well Sir, and am extremely happy to find you ſo forward in our Aſſiſtance, I have heard four of your Ships that have been employ'd by us are ſafe arrived at their reſpective Ports, which gives me infinite Pleaſure I aſſure you Sir.

Mr. VANYOUDES.

And me likewiſe; thank Heaven! for even the Wind and Seas, ſeem as if they were Conſpired to forward our Deſign.

Monſ. LE PARDU.

There are above twenty Sail more, on their Voyages now, I wiſh them Succeſs; tho' I don't imagine the *E----ſh* have any apprehenſions of our making uſe of your Ships at preſent, what ever they may hereafter.

Mr. VANYOUDES.

What Sir, do you think the *E----ſh* will ever board our Ships to examine them?

Monſ.

Monſ. Le Pardu.

There is no judging of their behaviour, but, I can't ſee what right they have, to inſpect the Cargo of your Ships, when you are in Alliance and as it were hand in hand with them.

Mr. Vanyoudes.

True, that makes me think there will be no neceſſity of Inſuring our Ships, for it would be only paying ſo much Money for nothing. When do you expect Monſ. *Le Treta*'s arrival.

Monſ. Le Pardu.

I expected him yeſterday, I make no doubt but we may meet with him at the 'Change.

Mr. Vanyoudes.

And there we ſhall ſee Mr. *Vanſlaken*, between One and Two o'Clock, if you'll honour me with your Company.

Monſ. Le Pardu.

You may command me Sir, I muſt only beg leave to wait on a Friend of mine for a trifle of Time, and you may depend on ſeeing me at 'Change.

(Here's my Servant coming with a Letter.

Mr. Vanyoudes.

I hope the Contents will give you Joy.

Monſ.

Monſ. Le Pardu.

I hope ſo.

(*Opens the Letter very haſtily and reads*)

Damnation!

(*Throws the Letter down with violence.*)

Mr. Vanyoudes.

(*Takes up the Letter and gives him.*)

Peace, Sir, Peace.

Monſ. Le Pardu.

Peace! teach it to the *E*——*ſh* Privateering dogs, that ſwarm like Locuſts on the Ocean, the Cauſe of all my Woe.

Mr. Vanyoudes.

I hope you have ſuſtain'd no Loſs!

Monſ. Le Pardu.

No loſs Sir!—I am £2000 worſe ſince my departure from *F*——*e*; read that.

(*Delivers the Letter to Vanyoudes.*

Mr. Vanyoudes. (*Reads.*)

To Monſ. le Pardu.

Sir,

It is with regret that I muſt acquaint you, three Days after we left the Port, at Day-break in the Morning we were chas'd by an E--ſh Privateer from B----l, who came

up with us about Noon, and immediately diſcharged a broadſide at us, which kill'd three of our People; and as we were in no condition to diſpute their force of Arms, thought proper to ſtrike.—We have ſince ranſom'd her for four Thouſand Pounds.

I am, Sir,
Your moſt obedient,
Humble ſervant,
Le Treta.

I am ſorry for it Sir, but however we can't help theſe things, 'tis the event of war.

Monſ. Le Pardu.

It grates my Nature to ſee the people of *B——l* thus encourag'd, before they ſhou'd have taken her, cou'd I have had my will, ſhe ſhould have been ſunk, if every Soul periſh'd.

Mr. Vanyoudes.

No, no, conſider Sir, Mens lives.

Monſ. Le Pardu.

Conſider the People of that d—n'd Port *B——l*, whoſe numerous Privateers have ſo ſcower'd our Seas; they are as diligent in their purſuits after our Ships, as the Vultute is after his Prey.—Ranſom'd for £4000, 'wou'd that £4000, may Poiſon 4000 of its Inhabitants.

Mr.

Mr. VANYOUDES.

Forget it, forget it—It will be your turn anon.—E're long they'll not have a Privateer at Sea; and your Privateers may Intercept their merchant Ships without danger.—Then the Tables will be turn'd, my friend.

Monſ. LE PARDU.

I wiſh that Time was come.

Mr. VANYOUDES.

'Tis now approaching.

(Exeunt.

SCENE III. *The Exchange.*

Mr. Vanſlaken, Mr. Vanyoudes, Monſ. Le Pardu and Monſ. Le Treta, meet.

Mr. VANSLAKEN.

How goes the World now Gentlemen? —What News have you collected ſince I ſee you laſt?

Monſ. LE PARDU.

You have heard of our Misfortune no doubt.

Mr. VANSLAKEN.

I have Sir, and am not a little concern'd for your loſs; but as it is irretrievable, 'tis a folly to grieve about it; ſhake it off and think no more of it.

Monſ.

Monſ. Le Pardu.

Ah! teach me to forget it—As ſoon you'd teach the raging of the Seas to glide in ſofteſt murmurs.

Mr. Vanyoudes.

Come, come, times will mend, we'll hear no more of this; but let's look forward; hope for good ſucceſs.

Monſ. Le Treta.

In this our preſent Undertaking we may promiſe ourſelves ſucceſs.

Mr. Vanslaken.

That we may.—Let's ſee, we have had no News from the greateſt Part of our Ships this fortnight paſt.

Mr. Vanyoudes.

No, 'tis more than a fortnight.

A noiſe rumour'd about of an Account that juſt Arrived, that ſeveral of the D—h Merchant Ships are taken by the E——ſh; having F——h Property aboard.

Several correct written Liſts of which was handed about.

Mr. Vanslaken.

This is ſtrange! very ſtrange indeed! if it be true, the *E——ſh* are very kind to us—Is this the Reward we have deſerv'd?

Monſ.

Monſ. LE PARDU.

This is mending the Matter with more Loſſes! if that will help us, we are likely to proſper!

Mr. VANYOUDES.

(*Gets one of the Letters, reads*

SIR,

The following is as correct an Account as I could get of the D—b Ships taken by the E—ſh. The M——, Capt. L——, by the V—— Privateer from L——; The L——, Capt. W——, by the B—— Privateer from Ditto; The S——, Capt. N——, by the R—— Privateer from B—l; The Q——, Capt. P——, by the W—— Privateer from Ditto; The P——, Capt. S——, by the R—— Privateer from L——le; The L——, Capt. W——, by the K—— Privateer from Ditto; The B——, Capt. N——, by the A—— Privateer from L——n; The O——, Capt. M——, by the D—— Privateer from ditto, the E——, Capt. S——, by the N——, Privateer, from ditto; The H—— Capt. I——, by the S——, Privateer from B—l; the H——, Capt. G——, by the W——, Privateer from ditto; the B——, Capt. N——, by the P——, Privateer from L——le;

Amazing!

Monſ. LE PARDU.

The Tables are turn'd as you obſerv'd Mr.

Mr. *Vanyoudes*, but they are turn'd againſt us.

Mr. VANSLAKEN.

Well, they are all Inſured at *L——n.*

Mr. VANYOUDES.

No Sir, not one Sixteenth part of them.

Mr. VANSLAKEN.

No—Not Inſur'd! May they be ſwallow'd up in Hell's Abyſs, that were the Cauſe of that neglect.—Why were they not?

Mr. VANYOUDES.

I was backward in that particular, thinking there would be no Danger; and you ſeem'd not to be very forward for Inſurance.

Mr. VANSLAKEN.

Confuſion!

Monſ. LE TRETA.

Be not uneaſy, they'll be deliverd up again.

Mr. VANSLAKEN.

Diſtraction and Diſorder! when? O! when!—I can't bear the thought.

(Exeunt.

SCENE IV. *A Room in Mr. Vanyoudes's Houſe.*

Mr. Vanyoudes Writing at a Table.

Enter Monſ. Le Pardu and Monſ. Le Treta.

Monſ.

Monſ. Le Pardu.

Well Sir, the Ships are not all loſt.

Mr. Vanslaken.

No, One has been Clear'd; but ſince that, One has been Condemn'd as a legal Prize, and in all probability the Reſt will ſhare the ſame Fate.

Monſ. Le Pardu.

No, the reſt will be Cleared I hope.

Mr. Vanyoudes.

What hope can we have of that, when all the *E—ſh* Nation cry aloud, condemn them, condemn them.

Monſ. Le Treta.

D—n them.—How does Mr. *Vanſlaken* bear it?

Mr. Vanyoudes.

It affects him much—He ſits a while motionleſs and dumb, with his Eyes fix'd on the Ground, then all of a ſudden ſtarts up, walks about the Room, ſtrikes his Breaſt with violence, and appears with all the Symptoms of Madneſs, frequently muttering to himſelf, *cruel fate!* I fear he'll never be himſelf again.

Monſ. Le Treta.

I am very ſorry for him, I took him to be more the Philoſopher.—I imagin'd by his ſlighting our late Misfortune, that no Loſſes, of whatever Conſequence could have

have disturbed him. But we can't feel another's Loss, like that of our own.

Monſ. Le Pardu.

Well Sir, adieu; we muſt depart hence for *P——s*, and if any thing can be done on our part towards clearing the Ships you may depend on our utmoſt efforts in that particular,—Farewell.

Mr. Vanyoudes.

Farewell—

Monſ. Le Treta.

Mr. *Vanyoudes* I am your very humble Servant.

Mr. Vanyoudes.

If any thing of Conſequence tranſpires, you'll let me hear.

Monſ. Le Treta.

That you may depend on.

(*Exeunt Le Pardu and Le Treta.*

Mr. Vanyoudes.

But, why ſhou'd I aſk that.—What can be the Conſequence to me.—The more I hear concerning them, the more wretched I ſhall be. My Friend too delirious, ruin'd both in Riches and in Honour, and robb'd of that which all the Riches in *Europe* cannot redeem, his peace of Mind, and the Uſe of his natural Faculties—Loſt to himſelf, and loſt to the World.

F I N I S.

BRITISH MUSEUM 13 OCT 85